



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

**NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE**

022927  
WALKER DIGITAL  
FIVE HIGH RIDGE PARK  
STAMFORD CT 06905

QM12/0420

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/028,781	02/24/98	023	SAGER, M	3713 04/20/00
First Named Applicant	WALKER, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION DATABASE DRIVEN ONLINE DISTRIBUTED TOURNAMENT SYSTEM

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
3	3178-4034-US	463-023.000	L39 UTILITY	<del>YES</del> NO	<del>\$695.00</del> \$1210	07/20/00

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

**I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.**

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or

B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

**II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.**

**III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch-number.**

Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box-ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office  
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/028,781	02/24/98	WALKER	

09/028,781 02/24/98 WALKER

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EXAMINER  
3178-4034-US

ART UNIT  
PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED 713

04/20/00

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

- ☒ This communication is responsive to IDS rec'd Mar 1, 1999; Mar 17, 2000; and Feb 29, 2000 and Terminal Disclaimer rec'd Feb 29, 2000 and Interview 19-20 April 2000
- ☒ The allowed claim(s) are 105-127
- ☒ The drawings filed on 2/28/2000 are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☐ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 5 and 13

☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☒ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement filed Mar. 17, 2000 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.97(d) because it lacks a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e). It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.
2. The information disclosure statement filed Mar. 17, 2000 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.97(d) because it lacks a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

***Examiner's Amendment***

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Scott Allison (38,370) on 19-20 April 2000.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

~~Claim~~ 118, lines 4-5 replaced 'relating to a' with --influencing play of the--.

~~Claim~~ 119, line 3, replaced 'relating to a' with --influencing play of the--.

~~Claim~~ 121, line 5, replaced 'relating to a' with --influencing play of the--.

~~Claim~~ 122, line 6, replaced 'relating to a with --influencing play of the--.

D

19 ✓  
Claim 123, line 2, replaced 'a' with --the-- and before 'receiving' added providing a plurality of

D' ✓  
payment options to a player;.

Claim 123, line 2, after 'player;' added said payment information relating to at least one of the

D<sup>2</sup> ✓  
plurality of payment options;.


5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the step of influencing game play while a player plays a game in a tournament is maintained (from parent application determination) as being patentable over art of record; storing a payment (preference) option information and later retrieval for paying a fee in a second tournament is also maintained as being patentable over art of record; adjusting difficulty of a tournament based upon stored player information is maintained as being patentable over art, and; reserving positions for players in a tournament until a preset time away from start of a tournament and making reserved positions available to non-select players when a preset time from starting time of tournament appears patentable over art of record.

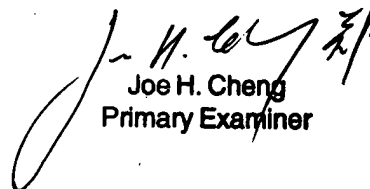
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Application Number: 09/028,781  
Art Unit: 3713

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. A. Sager whose telephone number is (703) 308-0785. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F from 0700 to 1700. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Valencia Martin-Wallace, can be reached on (703) 308-4119. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3590. Any inquiry of a general nature should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858; while, any inquiry relating to the **status** of this application or proceeding should be directed to 3700 Customer Service at 703/306-5648.

  
M. Sager  
Patent Examiner  
April 20, 2000

  
Joe H. Cheng  
Primary Examiner

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